

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I feel this is a great danger to a democratic society which relies on a free press to deliver unbiased information so necessary to the republic. People on both sides of the political issues would love to see the other side just "go away." However, any thinking person realizes that losing "the other side" would leave us with a one-party system, which would soon become totalitarian - the loss of a free, democratic society.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Please protect our democracy by ensuring fair and equal campaign access to the airways. Thank you.